

June 16, 2014

Pursuant to adjournment comes now the Starke County Council and meet in regular session at 5:30PM in the Annex Building Meeting Room, Knox, Indiana, with Dave Pearman, Tony Radkiewicz, Robert Sims, Bryan Cavender, Marvin McLaughlin, and Freddie Baker present, and the following proceedings were held to wit:

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Pearman. Councilman Mitch Semans was absent.

SHERIFF'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE TWO SQUAD CARS

Sheriff Oscar Cowen appeared before the Board to request funding to purchase two new squad cars for the Sheriff's Department. He presented a price quote for a 2015 Ford Police Interceptor Sedan, in the amount of \$26,690.00 from Best Ford, Knox, in an Arizona Beige color and a price quote from Best Chevrolet, Bremen, for a 2015 Chevrolet Impala LTD Police Sedan in the amount of \$25,404.00 which is Silver Ice in color. He also noted there could possibly be an additional \$6,170.00 to set up each squad car with such items as the graphics, the light bar, and radar. There was a brief discussion in regard to Chevy vs. Ford, and in regard to the color of the vehicles. Commissioner Norem advised the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of the two vehicles with the funding for one vehicle to be paid out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund, and the other from the Commissioners' Portion of the CREDIT Fund. Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the funding of the purchase of two squad cars, but only up to \$30,000.00 per vehicle, noting anything over that amount should be paid for out of the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. Councilman McLaughlin seconded the motion and it passed with four ayes, and one nay. (Sims) The Sheriff was advised by President Pearman, if at all possible, to try not to add a silver color vehicle to his fleet of vehicles. He should try to keep the colors consistent with the others in his fleet.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Veteran Service Officer, Terry Turner, appeared before the Board to request to transfer \$1,050.00 in budget appropriations from the Deputy Auditor budget line item from the Auditor's budget, to the Veteran's Office in order to purchase a Lenovo ThinkPad Edge E540 which included Microsoft Office, in the total amount of \$1,029.98. Officer Turner advised he would be eligible for a state reimbursement for the purchase of the laptop up to \$1,200.00. He also noted he had the Auditor's permission to utilize those appropriations from her budget. Councilman Radkiewicz stated he felt the prices for both the laptop and the software were too high and would like to see the IT Director review these price quotes. Councilman Baker made a motion to table the request for now pending IT review, seconded by Councilman Cavender. The motion passed with all ayes.

A transfer request had been submitted by the County Coroner, Kris Rannells, requesting \$600.00 be transferred into the transportation to move bodies budget line item of the Coroner's budget, and reduce the following budget line items from that budget: postage \$100.00, office supplies \$350.00, and coroner's seminar \$150.00. Councilman Baker made a motion to not even consider this request since Coroner Rannells was not present for the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Radkiewicz, and passed with all ayes. Councilman Radkiewicz stated he felt it would set a precedent if they considered his transfer request without his appearing in front of the Board.

President Pearman advised the County had received notice from Porter Starke in 2013 after the 2014 budget was established that their rates for 2014 would be increasing by a factor of 1.026, which resulted in a need to increase their budget line appropriation by \$2,592.00. Councilman Radkiewicz inquired why they are allowed to increase their expense by the 2.6% growth rate but the County's approved budget by the State is cut, and not increased. Auditor Chaffins and President Pearman both advised the County's actual tax levy increased by the 2.6% growth factor. Auditor Chaffins advised, in regard to the need for the additional increase to Porter-Starke Services budget line item, it may possibly be a simple transfer within the Commissioner's budget. Commissioner Norem advised they will look into possible ways to transfer appropriations into that budget line item.

President Pearman inquired if there is a report ready on the status of the Council's Park Board Committee. Councilman Radkiewicz advised the committee met last week and Attorney Marty Lucas had created a proposed Park Board Mission Statement. Councilman Radkiewicz read aloud the proposed mission statement which states:

The Starke County Park and Recreation Board (SCPRB) shall be delegated the mission to promote parks, public open space and recreational activities in Starke County, IN, on properties owned, operated or located in the County (but excluding county administrative buildings and public roads.) The Board will develop and implement policies regarding the use, maintenance, development, and perpetuation of parks, and other publicly dedicated property in the County. In addition, the Board will promote and collaborate with other local park boards in the County, and with state and federal parks authorities.

Councilman Radkiewicz advised the Park Board would be an appointed group of volunteers with a personal interest in parks and recreation and a desire to be pro-active in the service of the community. He also noted there are three ways in which to fund a park board and they are by park usage fees, a special benefit tax levy or in the case of property acquisitions, through issuance of a bond. But, he noted, in this case the proposed Park Board is volunteers. Councilman Baker stated the way he has read the IC code in regard to Park Boards, the code states if a park board is created we have to fund it. At this point in the meeting President Pearman took comments from the public in attendance and the response from the public was supportive for the creation of the Park Board by the County. Attorney Lucas responded to a public question as to who would serve of this board. Attorney Lucas noted as is stated in the IC code: a county park board shall be residents of Starke County and be appointed by: two members shall be appointed by the judge of the circuit court; one member shall be appointed by the county executive, and two members shall be appointed by the county fiscal body. In regard to a question inquiring which

entities will be covered by this proposed park board, Attorney Lucas advised it would only apply to County owned property or publicly dedicated land and not privately owned campgrounds. He noted the County will have to make their selection to the Board and also compile a listing of all County property that would be designated as parks, which, he noted, will not be a simple process.

Councilman Baker stated he was advised in other counties which have already created volunteer park boards those boards later asked for payment and he does not want to see that happen in Starke County. Councilman Sims made a motion to table this issue, the creation of a volunteer park board, for now. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cavender. Before a vote was taken, Councilman McLaughlin inquired as to why the Board would delay the creation of the Board as an all-volunteer board and then if they request pay the Council could just close down the Board. He also noted previously he had been against the creation of a Park Board, but stated he now sees there is a need for such a board. A vote was taken in the motion and the results were four ayes and one nay (McLaughlin) to table this issue for now. Councilman McLaughlin asked for a show of hands as to how the board voted, and it was 4-1.

President Pearman discussed the creation of the proposed 2015 jail budget since approximately one half of the year will be dealing with operations in the new jail. He also noted he would like to see a meeting of the 911 committee to discuss the status of the 911 staffing at the new jail.

Councilman Radkiewicz made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19th meeting, seconded by Councilman Sims. The motion passed with all ayes.

Auditor Chaffins advised Kurt Ott, of the DLGF advised he will no longer be the DLGF representative for Starke County but his replacement has yet to be named. Until then, he will be in Starke County on July 11th to review the preliminarily proposed 2015 Starke County budget in order for the County to move forward with their budget process.

Debbie Mix inquired as to the second reading and public hearing of the proposed amendment to the County's Inkeeper's Tax Ordinance. Attorney Lucas advised it will be advertised and scheduled for the July 21st meeting.

With there being no further business, Councilman McLaughlin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Baker. The motion passed with all ayes and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48PM.

June 16, 2014

Dave Pearman, President

ABSENT _____
Mitch Semans, Vice President

Bryan Cavender

Marvin McLaughlin

Tony Radkiewicz

Robert Sims

Freddie Baker

Katherine Chaffins, Starke County Auditor and
Secretary to the County Council